Situation Report – Cap Repair
San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site
Channelview, Harris County, Texas

Summary of Progress:

December 10, 2015: The EPA Dive Team completed an underwater inspection of the armor cap to assess how it has fared during the four years since construction. The divers inspected the armor cap visually, by probing, and by side scan dual frequency sonar. Although visibility was extremely poor, in the northwest part of the cap near the shoreline a damaged or eroded area of the cap was identified.

December 23, 2015: following EPA approval of the Potentially Responsible Party's (PRP) delineation and sampling plan, the PRPs completed work to mark out the length and width of the damaged/eroded area, as well as collect sediment samples. The damaged/eroded area was irregularly shaped approximately 20-feet by 25-feet in size located under water from 8-inches to 18-inches deep.

A total of 7 shallow (0-6 inches) sediment samples were collected within (3 samples) and outside (4 samples) of the damaged area. The samples within the damaged area contained rocks/aggregate as well as sediment and shells. The samples are being analyzed for dioxin /furan congeners. In addition, 3 split sample were collected by EPA's contractor in and outside of the damaged area, and will be analyzed by an independent laboratory for comparison to the PRPs' sample results. Oversight of this work was provided by EPA staff and contractor. Several Harris County staff also viewed a portion of the work in progress.

December 31, 2015: Following EPA's approval of the repair plan, the PRPs completed work to lay an 8-ounce non-woven geotextile fabric over the damaged area and cover it with a 1-foot minimum thickness layer of type C rock (8-inches median diameter). Manual probing was done to confirm that the minimum rock thickness was achieved, and additional rock was added where needed. Oversight of this work was provided by EPA staff and contractor EA.

January 4, 2016: The PRPs performed a bathymetric survey of the repaired area.